



# **ZOFO**

## ***one piano, four hands***

### **Long Bio (541 Words)**

Since joining forces as a professional duo in 2009, internationally acclaimed solo pianists Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi — ZOFO — have electrified audiences from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo with their dazzling artistry and outside-the-box thematic programming for one-piano-four-hands. This Grammy-nominated, prize-winning Steinway Artist Ensemble — one of only a handful of duos worldwide devoted exclusively to piano duets — is blazing a bold new path for piano four hands groups by focusing on 20th and 21st century repertoire and by commissioning new works from noted composers each year.

ZOFO, which is shorthand for 20-finger orchestra (ZO=20 and FO=finger orchestra), also performs heart-pumping duet arrangements of famous orchestral pieces such as Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, exploring the realms in which many composers first experienced their symphonic visions. ZOFO believes that the piano duet is the most intimate form of chamber music, with two musicians playing individual parts on one instrument in a complex, often beautiful choreography of four hands.

ZOFO's concert programs often incorporate a unifying theme that connects the works both musically and historically. Several of these thematic programs have been released worldwide as critically acclaimed commercial CDs under their multi-disc recording contract with Grammy Award-winning label Sono Luminus Records. Their 2013 debut CD *Mind Meld* was nominated for two Grammy Awards for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance and Producer of the Year.

ZOFO made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2010, the same year they won the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition. ZOFO was the only piano duo to be elevated to the final round in the 2011 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. They have performed at a wide variety of concert venues across North America, Europe, Australia, and Japan, including intimate, informal spaces; colleges and universities; and major concert venues such as the Tokyo Opera Recital Hall, the Sydney City Recital Hall, and Tonhalle Zurich. ZOFO has participated at numerous festivals such as Murten Classics in Switzerland, the Sun Valley Music Festival in Idaho, the Music on the Heights International Chamber Music Festival in Poland, and the Kusatsu Summer International Academy and Festival in Japan.

Committed to contemporary music, ZOFO duet has commissioned more than thirty works by noted composers including Pulitzer Prize-winner William Bolcom, Gabriela Lena Frank, Terry Riley, Akira Nishimura, Carl Vine, Pawel Mykietyn, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Pablo Ortiz, and many others. For their cutting-edge project ZOFOMOMA – New Pictures at an Exhibition, ZOFO commissioned new works from

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15 top composers around the globe, and requested each to select a painting representative of his or her culture as a springboard to the creative process. With this project, ZOFO was invited to a nine-concert Australia tour presented by Musica Viva in spring 2019. In the same year ZOFO commissioned two concertos for one-piano four-hands by Australian composer Carl Vine and Argentinian-American composer Pablo Ortiz, and premiered them with the Grant Park Orchestra under Carlos Kalmar, and the San José Chamber Orchestra under Barbara Day Turner respectively. ZOFO's newest projects include a CD recording with gamelan-inspired works by American composer Brian Baumbusch.

ZOFO's innovative and inspired performances have garnered national media attention, and ZOFO has been featured on American Public Media's Performance Today, WFMT Chicago's Impromptu, KING-FM's Second Inversion, Australia's ABC Radio National's The Art Show, among many others.

### **Short Bio (297 Words)**

Since joining forces as a professional piano duo in 2009, Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi — ZOFO — have electrified audiences from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo with their dazzling artistry and outside-the-box thematic programming for one-piano-four-hands. One of only a handful of duos worldwide devoted exclusively to piano duets, this Grammy-nominated, prize-winning Steinway Artist ensemble is blazing a bold new path by focusing on 20th and 21st century repertoire and commissioning new works from noted composers each year.

ZOFO, which is shorthand for 20-finger orchestra (ZO=20 and FO=finger orchestra), also performs heart-pumping duet arrangements of famous orchestral pieces such as Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, exploring the realms in which many composers first experienced their symphonic visions. ZOFO believes that the piano duet is the most intimate form of chamber music, with two musicians playing individual parts on one instrument in a complex, often beautiful choreography of four hands.

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Winner of the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition, ZOFO made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2010. At the 2011 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, ZOFO was the only piano duo to be elevated to the final round. Since then, ZOFO has performed across Europe, Japan, Australia, and the U.S.

Committed to contemporary music, ZOFO duet has commissioned more than 30 works by noted composers including Pulitzer Prize-winner William Bolcom, Gabriela Lena Frank, Terry Riley, Akira Nishimura, Carl Vine, Pawel Mykietyn, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, and many others.

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### **Micro Bio (27 Words)**

Grammy-nominated piano duo ZOFO (Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi) have electrified audiences from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo with their dazzling artistry and outside-the-box thematic programming for one-piano-four-hands.

## ***ZOFO – Member Bios***

### **Eva-Maria Zimmermann, piano**

Dynamic Swiss pianist Eva-Maria Zimmermann has appeared as soloist in Europe and the United States, offering performances that are "breathtakingly intense" (Der Bund, Switzerland) and "highly virtuosic and deeply communicative" (NewMusicBox, USA). Her engagements have included recitals as well as concerto performances with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Berner Kammerorchester, and the Georgisches Kammerorchester Ingolstadt, among others.

Winner of the prestigious Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, Ms. Zimmermann has appeared at international festivals worldwide, including the Festival Piano en Saintonge in France, Murten Classics in Switzerland, and San Francisco's Other Minds Festival of New Music. A graduate with highest honors from the Conservatory of Geneva, Ms. Zimmermann has studied with many distinguished musicians, including Dominique Merlet, Tomasz Herbut, Leonard Hokanson, Leon Fleisher, and György Sebök, among others.

In addition to her solo appearances, Ms. Zimmermann's broad interests include chamber music, lieder recitals, and teaching. She has partnered worldwide with many other professional musicians and ensembles in her career, including the Del Sol String Quartet, violinist Iris Stone, bass-baritone René Perler, and cellist/conductor Matthias Kuhn. Ms. Zimmermann was a founding member of the award winning Swiss Charmillon Piano Quartet. Many of her chamber music and Lieder recitals have been broadcast on Swiss Radio SRF 2 Kultur and Radio Suisse Romande. As an educator, Ms. Zimmermann has been a faculty member at the University of San Francisco and currently teaches in the music program at the Nueva School in Hillsborough, CA, founded by Sir Yehudi Menuhin. She resides in San Francisco.

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## **Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano**

Keisuke Nakagoshi began his piano studies at the age of ten, arriving in the United States from Japan at the age of 18. Mr. Nakagoshi earned his bachelor's degree in composition and master's degree in chamber music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In 2014, he made his solo debut with the San Francisco Symphony on Ingvar Lidholm's Poesis with Herbert Blomstedt conducting.

Mr. Nakagoshi has performed to critical acclaim on prestigious concert stages across the United States, including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. He has received training from some of the most celebrated musicians of our time – Emanuel Ax, Gilbert Kalish, Menahem Pressler, Robert Mann, Paul Hersh, David Zinman – and enjoys collaborating with other accomplished musicians such as Lucy Shelton, Ian Swensen, Jodi Levitz, Robin Sutherland, Lev Polyakin, Gary Schocker and also conductors such as Alasdair Neale, George Daugherty, Nicole Paiement, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Herbert Blomstedt.

Mr. Nakagoshi is Pianist-in-Residence at The San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the award-winning opera Parallele. He resides in San Francisco, California.

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